



The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News



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Putting kids to the 'test'

A FEW WEEKS AGO, the Oh So Feisty One, along with all the public school third-graders in the city, took the dreaded English test, which determines promotion to fourth grade.

The poor kids. That's an awful lot of pressure for 8-year olds. Even OSFO's teacher thinks these high-stakes test are wrong-headed.

"They've never taken tests before. They don't even know how to fill in the bubbles," this very experienced public school teacher told Smartmom. Indeed, she hates to "teach to the test," and feels for her stressed-out young

and so does Smartmom. These third-graders are just unwitting pawns being moved around by a political game.

And who, besides Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and Mayor Bloomberg, believed that holding kids back is such a great idea? A study, funded by the Consortium on Chicago School Research found that initially, third-graders who were held back performed better than failing students who were promoted to fourth grade. But after a year, the students who were held back performed worse.

At PS 321, third-grade parents got so worked up they needed extra Paxil in their morning latte at the Connecticut Muffin across the street.

A ND THIS BEING Park Slope, there was even a special session conducted by a local psychologist called "Big Worries... Little Worries: Helping Your Child Handle Stress," in the PS 321 auditorium. According to one of the organizers, "Parents found it very helpful to understand the different kinds of ways children experience and some of the simple things they can do to help children manage. It certainly helped parents too!"

After the workshop, some second-grade parents, suffering from anticipatory anxiety, were engaged in excessive bubblewrap popping, a proven method of stress-reduction. Others were seen ordering cups of Sleepy Time tea at ConMuCo and repeating

See TESTING OUR KIDS on page <None>



By Louise Crawford

LAMBDA DEBATE HAS CANDIDATES CALLING FOR DUBYA'S HEAD

IMPEACH BUSH!



Leave 'em laughing

Sen. Hillary Clinton joins Jamie and Marty Markowitz at the Beep's inaugural coronation last week at Brooklyn Tech in Fort Greene. Markowitz began his second term in high style, with marching bands, toasts, roasts and a feast fit for Kings. For a report on the raucous event — which was televised live — see Brooklyn Briefs on page 13.

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

President Bush must be impeached — or, at least, questioned really, really intensely. Or maybe he choked to death. Or maybe he got into a really bad argument with his wife — which focused mainly on issues important to the lesbian and gay community — veered into presidential politics last week when an audience member demanded to know which of the five Congressional candidates favored removing President Bush from office.

In this liberal crowd, candidates competed to see who favored harsher treatment of the president.

"I would like to see him in jail," said Chris Owens, who is hoping to succeed his father, Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights).

"By his own admission, he violated the law [by authorizing the surveillance of Americans]. He has dared us — he has dared us! — to define his violations as a high crime and misdemeanor."

Owens had initiated the debate earlier in the week by calling for impeachment, citing the "Bush administration's flagrant and arrogant disregard for laws designed to prevent abuses of executive power."

During his turn, Owens' main rival for the seat, Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), said, "The scope of this president's contempt for basic civil liberties is truly breathtaking." Instead of impeachment, Yassky favors a "Resolution of Inquiry" by the House Committee on the Judiciary to vote openly on whether to investigate the Bush administration.

"Let's put congressional Republicans in the position of having to vote against investigating the president," Yassky said, suggesting that those lawmakers would then have to go back to their districts and defend their decision to not want to know the truth.

It was Assemblywoman Yvette Clarke (D-Flatbush) who responded. She resisted the question, then answered, "The issue is impeachment. That's the bottom line to it."

Assemblyman Nick Perry (D-Flatbush) showed up too late to answer the question, but told The Brooklyn Papers impeachment is "a little premature." Congress should "investigate the matter seriously. Democrats need to make sure that they can hold [Bush] down for the count."

State Sen. Carl Andrews (D-Crown Heights) was also too late to answer the question.

— with Emanuel Jalonschi

Clear loser in Park Slope gay debate

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

And then there were four — or maybe three.

Although five candidates for Brooklyn's lone open congressional seat showed up to debate at Park Slope's Montauk Club Jan. 26, as least one, and possibly two, weren't around when the smoke cleared.

The forum, hosted by the influential gay political club, Lambda Independent Democrats, focused mainly on issues important to the gay and lesbian community on which the candidates for the central Brooklyn seat differ little.

Except Assemblyman Nick Perry (D-Flatbush), that is.

Perry not only alienated the crowd of more than 150 people by showing up an hour late, but then fended off the evening's softball question, "Do you support full marriage rights for gays and lesbians?"

Earlier in the evening, fellow candidates Chris Owens (the lone congressional son and Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) said they supported full marriage rights, while Councilwoman Yvette Clarke (D-Crown Heights) said she favored it, but was also sensitive to the

Debate Scorecard

Last week, Lambda Independent Democrats held the first of what will be many debates featuring candidates to replace retiring Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights). Here's a cheat sheet in case you missed the event, which was held at Park Slope's Montauk Club.

CANDIDATE	PUNCTUAL?	STYLE	BEST MOMENT	WORST MOMENT
Chris Owens, Current congressman's son	Yes	Preacher-like and well-informed	Was cheered wildly for his early opposition to the Atlantic Yards mega-project	When he tried to explain his convoluted formula for ensuring how 33 percent of Atlantic Yards would go to African-Americans
David Yassky, City Councilman from Brooklyn Heights	Yes	Urgent and wonkish	When he confronted the fact that he's the only white candidate in a majority black district	When he suggested that the best way for Congress to confront President Bush is by issuing procedural resolutions
Yvette Clarke, City Councilwoman from Crown Heights	No, 10 minutes late	Succinct, but light on substance	When she held her ground on why she supports Atlantic Yards, despite crowd opposition	When she reminded the crowd that "during the '70s, there was a whole bunch of turmoil" in Brooklyn.
Nick Perry, Assemblyman from Flatbush	No, 67 minutes late	Tired	When he said he opposes discrimination	When he had to read his impressions of a trip to Israel from a notecard.
Carl Andrews, State Sen. from Crown Heights	No, 81 minutes late	N/A (tardiness)	When he said he supported same-sex marriage	When he had to read his record on gay and lesbian issues from his own press release.



F-Line Bagels co-owner Fouad Assad shows off the store's clever way around a court ruling.

'F' bagel store sticks it to MTA

AHMED SAMHAN has turned the tables — make that the alphabet — on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Samhan is the hero bagel-maker whose F-Line Bagels on Smith Street was forced to remove the "F" train logo from its front sign after the MTA sued for trademark infringement last year.

Seems the MTA felt straphangers would be confused by all the train insignias and think the transit agency had gotten into the bagel business.

Yes, Samhan's store was filled with the now-familiar red and white iconography. And yes, it sits under the Smith-Ninth Street station.

But any similarities between F-Line

Bagels and the F line end there.

For one thing, Samhan's store is sparkling clean. For another, his employees are friendly. And never once has anyone tried to search my bag when I entered F-Line Bagels.

Samhan is an ass, Samhan

grudgingly conceded, breaking apart his expensive front sign even before it had been fully paid off.

He also covered all examples of the MTA's trademarked names on other signs throughout his store and even taped napkins over the offensive part of his "F-Line Bagels" t-shirt.

But now, Samhan is fighting back.

Loyal customers have recently noticed

that the transit logos have returned — albeit with the letters perfectly backwards.

And legal experts think Samhan may actually get the last laugh over his trademarking mistake.

"The standard in a trademark case is very simple," said Brooklyn Law School professor Marshall Leaffer. "The aggrieved party needs to prove that the public would be confused — in this case, that customers would think the MTA was involved with the bagel store."

"The likelihood of confusion has become less potent," said Leaffer, a visiting professor from Indiana. "Any one seeing a backwards 'F train' logo

would think it was a parody. A reasonable person would not believe the MTA was sponsoring a bagel shop with such a logo."

As an aside, Leaffer said he never heard of "F-Line Bagels." "You have so many bagels in this town, it's hard to keep up!" — but thought the bagels at Nosh on Atlantic Avenue were excellent (the jury is still out, counselor). Leaffer's bagel credentials are suspect, as his legal opinion was validated by other experts. The MTA, however, did not return my calls.

Samhan's new sign, this time with the letter F reversed — is expected to be installed next week, a victory for anyone who loves bagels, has a sense of humor, and believes that the MTA should run the subway system rather than prosecute bagel store owners.

That was the best exchange of the evening: the remainder of the questions provoked a sparing among the candidates.

State Sen. Carl Andrews (D-Crown Heights) stayed entirely out of the fray by showing up an hour-and-20 minutes late. And days later, he was reportedly bailing on the contest altogether to become the new Senate minority leader now that state Sen. David Peterman (D-Brooklyn) has been plucked to run for Governor on Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's gubernatorial ticket.

Crain's Insider reported that Spitzer has agreed to line up Andrews as his vice for Andrews, a former employee.

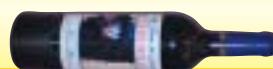
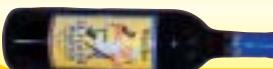
But Andrews told The Brooklyn Papers he is still a candidate for Congress.

My guess is he's manager comes on board tomorrow," Andrews said on Wednesday.

After the Lambda forum, an Ovens press release said he was "a strong candidate in a crowded field... aggressive and impressive."

See DEBATE on page 4

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Scam slammed

POLICE BLOTTER

By Lilo H. Stanton
The Brooklyn Papers

Employees who cleaned a Brooklyn Heights pharmacy out of nearly \$2,000 by undercharging for hair clips, chocolate and phone cards, police said.

For more than three days, Jan. 22-25, the two people stole the cash from a drug store on Court Street, between State Street and Atlantic Avenue. Security cameras and a witness caught them taking a slew of items for discounted rates and pocketing the cash.

The merchandise they dealt included nearly two dozen phones and a \$1,725 alone. They netted \$1,725 alone. They netted two boxes of chocolates, two packs of hair clips, a \$5 bottle of nail polish and a bottle of Aquafina water.

Tween mugged

Two thugs snatched the wallet of a 13-year-old riding the bus home from school on Jan. 22, police said.

The hoodlums started mugging with the youngster on a B63 heading west on Atlantic Avenue, around 3:30 p.m., according to police. When the two teens rose to exit the bus at Hoyt Street, one made a grab for the boy's pocket. Both thugs tugged at him until they found the wallet, which he said had a \$100 bill and change from the bus fare.

The billfold held \$9, a library card and the boy's school ID.

Brazen heist

Police arrested a 22-year-old man who allegedly snatched \$115 from the console of a car while the victim sat inside.

Impersonators

Police arrested a 22-year-old man who allegedly snatched \$115 from the console of a car while the victim sat inside.

Badges?

Badges? These two definitely don't deserve no stinkin' badges.

Two women armed with a fake police badge attacked a third woman in a Dumbo clothing store after she argued the pair with her slow crossing of Atlantic Avenue during the evening rush hour on Jan. 28, police said.

The two women, who had broken and entered in the 26-year-old victim from inside their black SUV as the woman and a friend made their way across the busy thoroughfare, had been in conflict with the bush Avenue, around 5:30 p.m.

One of the angry women leamed from the SUV to show off a white metal badge shaped like a police officer and insisted it was a cop, police said.

The police-imposters followed their victim into the discount electronics store at the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, where they confronted her again.

"Are you the one from the street?" one of the attackers asked, and her accomplice punched her in the face, leaving her mouth and nose swollen.

Hospital attack

A patient hurled everything from racial insults to a metal bucket at an employee of Brooklyn Hospital, according to police. The emergency room on Jan. 23, according to police.

The 32-year-old patient said he left his home, in nearby Atlantic Highlands, on Jan. 22, when he returned at 9 p.m., he noticed that someone had climbed up a fire escape and entered a second-floor window to remove a trio of Apple laptop computers, they noticed a bag of marijuana in open view. Police confiscated the pot and charged the resident with drug possession.

High-value haul

Burglars stole computers and luxury watches from a DeKalb Avenue store, that was empty for less than five hours on Jan. 20, police said.

The 53-year-old resident said he left his home, in nearby Atlantic Highlands, on Jan. 22, when he returned at 9 p.m., he noticed that someone had climbed up a fire escape and entered a second-floor window to remove a trio of Apple laptop computers, they noticed a bag of marijuana in open view. Police confiscated the pot and charged the resident with drug possession.

Poetry in motion

But a vandal made his message clear to a 68-year-old Long Island Avenue resident on Jan. 22, when he scratched the words "F---" on the hood of his Chevy Blazer, police said.

The victim was walking down Clinton Avenue, around 2:30 p.m., when he saw someone mess with his car, he got out, parked near DeKalb Avenue.

And when the employee told the patient she would have to wait for the test results, the woman's frustration moved to violence, police said.

First, she called the employee a "bitch" and peppered her with words such as "bitch" before trying to hit the employee, police said.

The patient then found other ammunition — a box of staples, a metal nail — and threw them at the victim before doctors restrained her.

The patient fled and avoided arrest.

Flasher busted

A 32-year-old woman riding the Q train on Jan. 29 was treated to the sight of a man fondling his navel genitals. Police said the man and the women were riding the Man-

hattan-bound train at around 8:15 am when he pulled out his penis and began stroking it.

Police arrested the visibly aroused man, 26, on the train when the man pulled into Atlantic Avenue.

The man was hit with public lewdness and loitering.

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Knifers snatch iPods in Park and on Carroll St

By Lito H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

The conditions were right but this park visit was to be avoided.

A 21-year-old Park Slope man visited the picnic house in Prospect Park on Jan. 25 to bask in the warm weather and listen to music on his iPod. But the clouds — and a stranger — rolled in around 12:30 pm.

The stranger asked for the time but before the man could reply, the visitor pulled out a knife and demanded the iPod.

The victim complied and the thief fled.

But the thief didn't get far. The victim's description of the at-

tacker helped police track down the mugger later that afternoon at the corner of Montgomery Place and Prospect Park West.

Police Officer Leonard Sanders of the 78th Precinct arrested the 24-year-old Brooklyn man on robbery charges.

Teens nabbed

Police arrested a pair of thieves — armed with a knife they never displayed — who allegedly robbed a woman of her iPod on Jan. 26.

The pair approached the 33-year-old woman at the corner of Carroll Street and Eighth Avenue, around 11:30 am.

The older teen asked her for the time and then the second

questioned her about the iPod. But the young thieves didn't wait for an answer.

Police said they snatched the digital music device from the woman's hand and ran but that's all they know.

Police Officer William Engle of the 78th Precinct cuffed the two boys — ages 18 and 15 — who are now facing grand larceny charges.

Pre-dawn visit

Clearly the thief saw the light — and changed his plan.

Police said he arrived at the Sterling Place home — uninvited — around 4 am on Jan. 29 and started to bust in the door.

The banging noise awoke

the 86-year-old homeowner, who came to his senses to hear the smash of glass.

The victim leapt from his bed, threw the switch on the outdoor lamp and bright light flooded the doorway of his home, between Fourth and Fifth avenues. This sent the thief running before the police could see him, police said.

But 10 minutes later, there was a knock on the resident's door, and a man asking if he "had any food." The still-scar-

POLICE BLOTTER

the 22-year-old owner of the store, near Fifth Avenue, said the youngsters forced their way up to his shop and snatched the goods around 6:30 am. But he notified police, who arrested the boys — ages 16, 16 and 17 — on robbery charges.

Detective Felix Padilla of the 78th Precinct made the call.

Candy bust

It was a sweet, but painful, lesson.

A trio of teens learned

crime doesn't pay when cops arrested them for stealing candy from a newsstand on Ninth Street on Jan. 25, according to police.

Burglars struck a Fifth Street construction site be-

tween 5 pm on Jan. 22 and 4

am the following day, snip-

ping the padlocks on three

trailers and hauling away

\$2,300 in tools.

A few blocks away, on

Ninth Street, the burglars

broke into a wood-working

shop sometime after 10 pm on

Jan. 23, police said.

The owner said he returned

at 7:15 am the next day to find

the lock jimmied, the door

broken and \$3,000 in tools

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The Brooklyn Papers

Dyker Heights playground will have to get muddy somewhere else once renovations are made to the notorious Prospect Park slide. But the repair work will not begin until after this summer, when the drainage problems at the park are at their worst.

The Prospect Park Alliance announced that the pond that consumes the playground whenever it rains will be fixed with a \$100,000 grant from former City Councilman Gifford Miller (D-Manhattan).

The project will "make significant changes to how the fountain will work," said Tupper Thomas, president of the Prospect Park Alliance.

Drainage at the playground has been an issue for five years — and the children are to blame (of course!). Apparently, the young contractors had been dumping sand into the sprinklers, causing the area to flood.

Other renovations — including a second sprinkler — are also planned. The year-long construction will start this winter or next spring, Thomas said.

— Susan Cosier

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OUR OPINION

Vito is Dubya's Rep.

CAN YOU SAY "Bama"? Vito Fossella missed a big chance to help their party take back control of Congress this week by nominating Community Board 10 member Steve Harrison to be the sacrificial lamb against Rep. Steve Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge).

No knock on Harrison—he is a committed local activist with strong ties to both parts of a district I’m bound by the Dveraznoz. But I should like to consider that a party that’s taking advantage of President Bush’s flagging poll numbers has nominated a candidate whose only

electoral experience is finishing fourth in a five-person race for City Council in 2003.

It’s not as if the party lacks candidates.

City Councilmen Mike McMahon (D-Staten Island) and Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) were encouraged to run and built out with the same tired excuses (“the family needs me” “We run too many elections recently” and tired best wishes for the start).

The Democrats’ inability to pick a well-known candidate with a proven record of raising money is especially shocking given how big a target Fossella represents. The

four-term congressman is one of the most conservative in the House, and votes in Washington, yet represents a district with nearly twice as many registered Democrats as Republicans.

Fossella’s support for the president was so strong he was encouraged to run and built out with the same tired excuses (“the family needs me” “We run too many elections recently” and tired best wishes for the start).

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It’s too bad Democrats chose to give him a free pass to re-election.

LETTERS

More ferries, not gondolas, should fly over water

To the editor:

The fun and the future of boating from place to place in our fair city is not limited to the Staten Island Ferry or Gov. Island gondolas. (Jan. 21). The Staten Island Ferry and the tourist-supported Liberty Island and Circle Line boats have been constant through the years, as harbor traffic got thinner and thinner. Small ferries have made a comeback and they will provide the links between our 21st-century waterfront parks.

Phil Forbes, Red Hook

Save people like me!

To the editor:

I read with interest your recent Smartmom column, "The Smart Mom's Guide to Bay Ridge." I am Mark to be a DUMBO! Jan. 28, I have lived in Brooklyn since the late 1960s, and although Park Slope has much to recommend it, perhaps it can be useful to consider that it was in many ways a better neighborhood before the influx of money and children, which has made it totally unaffordable to someone of my means. I am not a joker, that I have not bought my house. I would be living in a refrigerator box on the corner. It was by far more diverse, less congested, had a greater variety of service-oriented stores, and less ravaged by real estate frenzy.

Although you mention the lower prices, neighborly and friendly, I am sure that you, like the Food Coop, you neglect to mention the not-infrequent displays of pique and belief in special privilege that some coop members show, the fascistic nature of the organization in that, although a coop, its policy is dictated by a small oligarchy, and the self-righteous political correctness shown by some in its emphasis on "social consciousness."

I think that some of this would have provided a

fairer contrast with DUMBO. Aren’t Park Slope and DUMBO two communities essentially catering to the overprivileged, each with a certain smattering of noblesse oblige? Saul D. Raw, Park Slope

Save the trees!

To the editor:

By now, thousands of property owners have seen the a tree the been sliced away by the city’s “Arborviroide” Jan. 28. This “arborcide” reaffirms my intention to remain a tree hugger and a critic of ridiculous managerial elements in the Parks Department who ignore feeders from some workers.

Perhaps now, more than ever, we should remember that a tree is a tree, not a tree.

“I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree whose hungry mouth is prest/Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast/A tree that looks at God all day/And lifts her leafy arms to pray/A tree that may in Summer wear/A nest of robins in her hair/Upon whose bosom snow has lain/Who intimately lives with the Dew and Rain/For God can make a tree.”

Roberto Gauthier, Brooklyn Height

Save Democracy!

To the editor:

I am writing to express my concern over the nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

As the Supreme Court is one of the pillars of checks and balances in our system of democracy, it seems less than prudent to put on the court someone who, from his record, believes in expansive and unrestrained executive power. This is especially im-

portant in the near future, when a case against President Bush for his illegal spying on Americans may be packed with even more doubt as to the importance of who is confirmed, remember that in 2000, it was the Supreme Court that would not allow all the votes to be recounted in Florida, thus giving Bush the presidency.

Jen Ferguson, DUMBO

Save the homeless!

To the editor:

The recent tragic death of two homeless men in Greenpoint should serve as a reminder to all about the challenges facing those who choose to call the streets home.

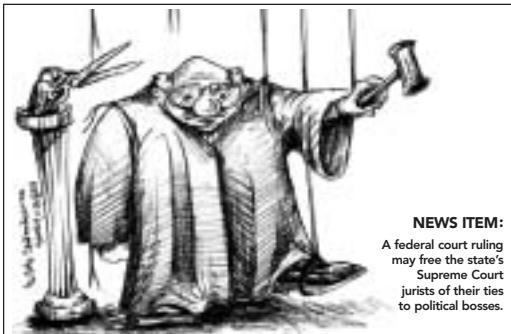
Many homeless men and women suffer from some form of untreated mental illness; still others may be battling substance abuse. Many homeless people who choose the streets over shelters do so because disabilities prevent good decision-making.

Each day we see the homeless as we walk to our schools and workplaces. Our inclination is to offer them money or food. Instead, we should encourage them to seek assistance through the city’s shelter system.

Clients are offered an array of services including crisis counseling, medical evaluation, treatment for mental illness or substance abuse and, ultimately, a permanent place to call home. Giving homeless individuals the services and options they need can prevent them from living their lives in the cold.

Richard Motta, Manhattan
The writer is president and CEO of the Volunteers of America-Greater New York.

ALL DRAWN OUT



NEWS ITEM:

A federal court ruling may free the state’s Supreme Court jurists of their ties to political bosses.

Courtesy of Garry Trudeau

Save Mark Lanes!

To the editor:

I been bowling at the Mark Lanes in Bay Ridge for over 30 years, so naturally I was upset and frustrated to hear that Century 21 is planning to tear down the bowling alley for a parking lot. That store is a monopoly that has been trying to take over all of 86th street. I was so angry that I called Century 21, but I got the same reaction that you got: silence.

I think Century 21 is trying to control the shopper so that the only choice in that area is Century 21. As a result, the only people who can afford to go there are the rich.

Maybe the Mark Lanes wasn’t the best bowling alley out there, but in Bay Ridge there aren’t many things to do besides bars (even all the movie theaters are closed).

If you need to like I do, sign my online petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/rush06/petition.html>.

Mark Lanes may be a quiet bowling alley, but there are lots of loyal bowlers there who will be deeply affected by its closure. Bowling is truly the sport of a lifetime.

Tom Brie, Bay Ridge

Permit holders saved!

To the editor:

I am writing to commend the recent efforts of the New York City Parks Department and Community Board 10 to address potential disputes in our community parks this spring. This issue involves a balance between our many outstanding sports leagues and members of the public who wish to use our public parks.

As president of the 68th Precinct Youth Council, which serves over 1,100 children with baseball and soccer programs, I am very familiar with the time

and effort that our local sports leagues go through to secure a city permit for the use of a field on particular dates and times. If respected by all, this process can be a smooth and well-organized process.

As an organized youth organization to have space to provide recreational activities for our children with the rights of others in our community to use the space at other times.

The problem is when non-permit holders are using a field when a youth organization holds a permit for that same period of time. The youth organization has a right to that space. However, this may lead to confrontational situations between the permit holders and the non-permit holders.

The immediate decision by the Parks Department to erect signs at park entrances listing the rights of permit holders will allow police, Parks Department employees, and representatives of youth organizations to more easily address, in a non-confrontational way, the situation that arises when non-permit holders are using a field.

This type of signage should go a long way in convincing most non-permit holders of the regulations on this matter and allow for more peaceful resolutions to potential disputes.

Bob Capano, Bay Ridge

Send us a letter

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By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPapers.com

All letters must be signed and include the writer’s home address and phone number (only the writer’s name and neighborhood are published with the letter).

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18,040 children/8,913 teens are the exact numbers of New York City children in foster care on March 31, 2005.

It's primaries for supreme judgeships

Ruling would eliminate
party control of picks

Associated Press

A Brooklyn federal judge has thrown out the state's "undemocratic" system for selecting Supreme Court judges, saying that it gives too much power to political party bosses.

Ruling in a case brought by a watchdog group, U.S. District Judge John Gleeson said New York's unique practice of using political conventions, rather than primaries, to decide the Democratic and Republican nominees for judgeships deprives voters of a role in picking who makes the ballot.

Gleeson issued a preliminary injunction tossing out the existing system, and instructed the state to hold traditional primary elections to pick Supreme Court candidates until the legislature enacts a replacement scheme.

The judge said the watchdog group, the Brennan Center for Justice, had demonstrated convincingly "that local major party leaders — not the voters or the delegates to the political conventions — control who becomes a Supreme Court Justice and when."

"The result is an opaque, undemocratic selection procedure that strips the right of the voters and the right of candidates who lack the backing of the local party leaders," Gleeson wrote.

Republican and Democratic party leaders had argued in court that the state's constrained ways for some to make the ballot, even if he or she lacked party support.

Under current rules, Democratic and Republican party leaders select candidates for Supreme Court posts at nominating conventions that critics have derided for years as exercises in patronage and power-brokering.

Their selections are rarely opposed in general elections. Political bosses also routinely cut deals to nominate the same candidate on both the Republican and Democratic party lines, further reducing the choice of candidates.

People not affiliated with political parties are free to run as independents in the general election, but such candidates are rarely, if ever, successful.

"Well-qualified candidates who aren't tied to party leaders often can't run," said Brennan Center attorney Jerome Cerean. The center had sued in 2004, arguing that the system violated the First Amendment.

Critics of the system also said it makes judicial candidates beholden to political parties.

"The court's decision [will] put an end to the back-room deals that should be dealt with in Tammany Hall," city Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo said in a statement.

The ruling only applies to the state Supreme Court, which in New York is a trial court that deals with general criminal and civil cases. All other elected judges in the state are nominated in direct primaries, rather than in conventions.

Argument in the case had centered around the selection of judges in Brooklyn, which had been tightly controlled for years by the recently deposed — and recently convicted — head of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, Clarence Norman Je.

Norman was sentenced to two to six years in prison this month for separate convictions on campaign corruption charges. Those charges are being appealed.

In the wake of the judge's ruling on judicial elections, Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) proposed a bill that would allow judicial candidates to enter the city's much-lauded campaign finance system and receive matching funds.

Getting it right...

Our lesson was well: "Rarer paid for state's lawyers," while accurate, may have been misleading. All developers are required by law to pay for the outside environmental assessment of their projects. It would be wrong to imply that Forest City Ratner and its developers thing other developers don't.

The Brooklyn Papers strives for accuracy, but sometimes mistakes are made. In such cases, readers are urged to contact Editor Gersh Krasnoff at (718) 834-9350, ext. 119, by fax at (718) 834-9278, or email to Kunzman@BrooklynPapers.com.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 4, 2006

Wish you were here

Brooklynites report back from the Sundance Film Festival front

By Marian Masone
for The Brooklyn Papers

Just two weeks before the Sundance Film Festival opened, founder Robert Redford was in Fort Greene announcing a new arts initiative with the Brooklyn Academy of Music. On that occasion he mentioned the large number of Brooklyn filmmakers that are represented at Sundance each year. And it is true; it has become impossible to keep track of all of them.

So this year, instead of an attempt to round up all the filmmakers from the borough who made the trip to Park City, Utah, here's the news from a representative cross section of directors, editors and actors.

Prospect Heights resident Joseph Matthew came to Sundance with his second documentary, "Crossing Arizona," which looks at all sides of the illegal immigration issue, and landed a spot in the Sundance documentary competition. Along the United States-Mexico border, the film introduces us to men and women who risk all to get into this country illegally.

From lack of water, many die while making the trip, so humanitarian volunteers roam through the desert giving water and food to the illegals who are usually hiding on the side of the road to Tucson.

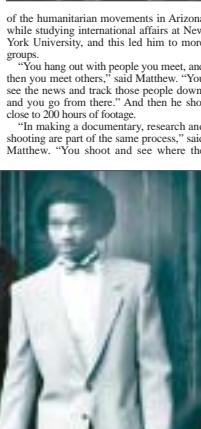
But others are looking for these illegals as well. Vigilantes opposed to any aid for illegal immigrants are also wandering the border. They are forcing them back to Mexico. And of course, the U.S. Border Patrol is doing the same thing.

The idea of examining immigration came naturally to Matthew, who came to the U.S. from India. GO Brooklyn caught up with him in the Filmmakers Lodge on Main Street, where he spoke about his career change from law to film.

"I always wanted to tell human stories," said Matthew. "I came to the U.S. to get my MBA, but being here was a great opportunity to change direction." So he studied photography and journalism instead. It was here that Matthew paid his dues and developed an artistic eye.

It must be said that it is not enough to document these ideas with a video camera. In order to have a film that will have an impact, it has to be put together in a creative, moving way, so that it will move the viewer. To this end, Matthew took a class in film editing, a cause "when you're shooting, you become emotionally attached and you can lack objectivity," he explained. Editors help to coalesce all the information into a work that moves as well as educates.

"If people aren't moved, then the film isn't effective," said Matthew. He found the film's wide variety of subjects through some



Avid editor: Park Slope film editor Shannon Kennedy watched more than 400 hours of film when whittling down the final cut of the documentary, "The Trials of Darryl Hunt."

story's going and get a sense of what the bigger story will be."

Nick of time

James Ponsoldt has lived in Williamsburg, Georgia, and that's where the idea for his film, "Off the Black," came from. The title is a baseball reference (to the border of home plate), which makes sense since Nick Nolte plays Ray, a divorced father who, instead of being a dad, is a baseball player, has wound up an umpire for high school ball.

After a questionable call to end an important game, some of the kids vandalize Ray's home as he sits inside. He catches one of the boys and they develop a father-son relationship that is disturbing at first but seems to turn around.

"I saw the father of a friend in a grocery store once," said Ponsoldt. He knew his friend was having big drug problems, but he couldn't bring himself to talk to the father, who seemed to bear it all by himself.

"I felt like a coward to not say anything to him, but I did," said Ponsoldt. "So that's what I did in the film — he drew a comparison to all those people that we encounter constantly as we go about our lives, but don't realize that they have lives, too. 'My friend's father was an umpire, and he wore a mask while he worked. We never saw who he really was.'

The film has a stellar cast, headed by Nolte as the father. Shannon Kennedy, who is Ponsoldt's first feature — he had only made shorts before, including his work at Columbia University, where he studied filmmaking — one has to wonder how he managed to snag Nolte. Did he have connections, or did Ponsoldt rely on his own gut instinct?

"It was pretty much a combination of both," he explained. "I wanted to write a great part that would attract a great actor. Scott Macaulay, one of my producers, had produced a French film, 'Clean' by Olivier Assayas with Nolte. So he went straight to

NOTE with the script.

"And it was really a good casting agent to get everyone else on board." "Everyone else" includes Kinney and Kirkland ("Anna").

Ponsoldt is a first-time filmmaker, making his first feature, deal with such veterans as on the set?

"It was a pretty egoless set," recalled Ponsoldt. "Once Nick was committed to doing it, he wanted to meet me — to make sure I'm not a jerk, I guess. And he took great pleasure in the set. He would bring a child in that he finds the honesty in the ride."

Ponsoldt based the male characters on men in his own life, such as his father and grandfather.

They were taught not to express emotion, so they talk in roundabout ways," said. "It was impossible for them to be emotionally honest."

Although Ponsoldt wrote the script in Georgia, it was shot in upstate New York.

"I really needed agrarian, post-industrial, former factory towns," he said, and he found them in New York state, in towns like Suffern and New City.

"'Off the Black' screened in the Spectrum section of the Sundance Film Festival, which seems to cover most films not in the competitive sections. The premiere screening was in the 1,000-seat Eccles Theater.

"It was fantastic," said Ponsoldt. "The place was so packed, my friends couldn't get in. And the high-end crew were there to participate in the question and answer session after the screening."

While the public screenings are a rush, let's not forget that Sundance is very much about business of film.

"Columbia University professor and 'Brookbeck Mountain' producer James Schamus says that there are two parts to a film, making it and selling it, and that the two shouldn't be confused," said Ponsoldt.

Clearly he hasn't confused them, as his

See **SUNDANCE** on page 11

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EVENT



Boogie fever

Whether you grew up with four wheels permanently attached to your feet or your only connection to roller-skating is an abiding lust for Heather Graham's character in "Boogie Nights," the Prospect Park Alliance Junior Committee wants you at their third annual roller-disco party on the ice at Wolfman Rink on Feb. 10.

The '70s and early '80s tunes coming from the DJ's turntables will be an irresistible call to get down, get down, get down or, conversely, get up and boogie.

And when it's time to warm up those toes, disco dancers can "do the Hustle" to the heated lounge for spiked hot chocolate, treats and karaoke.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. to midnight on Feb. 10. Tickets are \$40-\$100 and include admission, snack rental, snacks and drinks. For reservations, call (718) 965-8988 or e-mail lbettis@prospectpark.org. Tickets may also be purchased at www.prospectpark.org and at the door. Free parking available. — Lisa J. Curtis

THEATER

Sneak peek

The final performance of Irondale Ensemble Project's presentation of "Wasted: The History of Public Education in the United States and How It Got That Way" will be staged on Saturday.



"Wasted" is one of a series of events at the site of Irondale's future home, the Irondale Center for Theater, Education and Outreach in the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church at 1055 S. Oxford St., prior to its planned official opening in late fall 2006, according to Irondale Ensemble's Marketing and Development Director, Nina Callaway. This performance is an opportunity to get a sneak peek at the construction of the 23-year-old theater complex, a 7,300-square-foot, open-air, performance space in the building once claimed — and then dropped like a hot potato — by choreographer Twyla Tharp.

Directed by Jim Niesen, "Wasted" is a sweeping epic theatre noir that traces the mystery of how Joaquin Miller, son of frontier founding fathers to Horace Mann to a large, yellow flower.

The Irondale Ensemble Project's "Wasted: The History of Public Education in the United States and How It Got That Way" will be performed on Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students, seniors and public school teachers. For tickets and more information, call (718) 488-9233 or visit the Web site at www.irondale.org. — LJC

DINING

Classy combo

Just in time for Valentine's Day, chocolate lovers (and the people who love them) can meet Cary Craft Chocolates and Confections owner Cary Craft (pictured), who will offer samples of her hand-crafted wares at The Greene Grape in Fort Greene on Thursday.

Brownie River Cafe veterans will bring bon-bons with Framboise and Riesling fillings, rolled truffles, and chocolate bars to the wine store. (CaryMo Chocolate, ranked in 2005 at \$3-\$40 for boxes that contain two to 24 pieces.)

The Greene Grape will uncork some tawny, ruby and vintage port wines from around the world (\$10-\$100), because port pairs wonderfully with chocolates, of course.

The "Port and Chocolate Tasting" will take place from 6-8 p.m. on Feb. 8 at The Greene Grape (765 Fulton St. between South Oxford and South Portland streets). The event is free. For information, call (718) 797-9909 or visit www.greengrape.com. — LJC

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BROOKLYN

Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara V. Corran

The Backroom

(Inside Freddy's Bar) 485 Dean St. at Smith St. between Prospect Heights

(718) 622-7038

www.thefreddys.com

Feb. 4: A Night of Groove, 9:30 pm,

John Pianotto, 10:30 pm, FREE,

Feb. 5: Pub Quiz, 7 pm, FREE, &

Candy, 8 pm, FREE,

8: Minimalist Brooklyn Chick Jazz with

Christiane Drapkin and Stephanie

Grosjean, 8 pm, FREE,

Beef Variety Show hosted by Pat

O'Shea with Spontaneous Com-

bustion, 9 pm, FREE,

Kitchen, 10:30 pm, Calmone, 11:10

pm, Sacred, 11:30 pm, Plastic,

Sons of Dawn, 10:30 pm, Rev. pm,

Sons of Dawn, 10:30 pm, John

Vandermark, 11:30 pm, FREE,

FREE, Feb. 11: U.S. Free, 9:30 pm,

Sons of Dawn, 10:30 pm, Rev. pm,

Sons of Dawn, 10:30 pm, John

Vandermark, 11:30 pm, FREE,

BA Mcafe

30 Lafayette St. at Ashland Place in

Fort Greene, (718) 638-4100,

www.bamcafes.com

Feb. 4: Will Hollister Trip, 9 pm,

\$10 food/drink minimum, Feb. 10:

2007, Phil and Brooks, 9 pm,

\$10 food/drink minimum, Feb. 11:

Beef Circus, 9 pm, \$10 food/drink

minimum.

Bar 4

125 Ninth Ave. at 15th Street in

Park Slope, (718) 832-9800.

Feb. 4: Saraphina and guests, 8 pm,

FREE, Feb. 5: James Carnegie Group, 8

pm, \$5, FREE,

Barbes

37 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park

Slope, (718) 665-2172, www.barcitybrooklyn.com

Mondays: The Velveteens, 9:30 pm,

FREE, 8:30 pm, Show Part 2, 9

pm, \$8; Wednesdays: Night of the

Revived Limbs, 9 pm, \$8, Feb. 4:

Yankee Doodle Dandy, 9 pm, \$8,

Las Rubias del Norte, 10 pm, \$10,

St. James Hunter, 8 pm, \$8,

guitar, 9 pm, \$8, FREE, DJ Dubs and

guests, 9 pm, FREE;

Tuesdays: Nod Selectors with DJ

Dubs and guests, 9 pm, FREE;

Wednesday: Convalescence with DJ Stefan

Torque, 9 pm, FREE, DJ Pheonix,

Tusqueo with DJ Sash, 9 pm,

Latin percussion favors, 9 pm,

FREE; Sundays: No Selectors with DJ

Dubs and guests, 9 pm, FREE;

Wednesday: Nod Selectors with DJ

Dubs and guests, 9 pm, FREE;

Friday: The Greenhouse with DJ

MonOne, 11 pm, FREE.

Black Betty

426 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer

Street, (718) 268-7301, www.blackbetty.net

Saturday: DJ Lil' Shalina, 9 pm,

FREE, DJ Sash, 9 pm, FREE, DJ Sean

Marquand and Greg Caz, 10

pm, FREE; Mondays: Rev. Vince

Anaya and his band, 9 pm, FREE,

FREE; Tuesdays: Hot Rocks, 10

pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Super-

Food, 9 pm, FREE; Thursday:

Friday: The Greenhouse with DJ

MonOne, 11 pm, FREE.

The Brooklyn Lyceum

227 Fourth Ave. at President Street

in Greenpoint, (718) 268-7301,

www.goweb.com

Feb. 4: Don Slovin's Improv

Comics with the Brooklyn Sockers with

Sotchower, 9 pm, \$10, Feb. 10:

Dance Party featuring DJ Felix

Hernandez and Adelophis, 9 pm,

\$5; Saturday: DJ Felix Hernandez and

Adelophis, 9 pm, \$10, Sunday:

\$10, MonOne, 10 pm, \$10,

FREE, DJ Sean Steinbock, 10 pm,

FREE, DJ Sash, 9 pm, \$10,

You are Keanu

'Point Break Live!' drafts audience member to play action hero role — with cue cards

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

Director James Hooks will stage an adaptation of the Keanu Reeves-Patrick Swayze extreme-sports blockbuster "Point Break" at Williamsburg's Galapagos Art Space, beginning Feb. 10.

But he can't do it without you.

More accurately, he can't do it without a volunteer from the audience, who will read the lines of Johnny Utah from cue cards — to help the recruit truly embody Reeves's performance.

"It's the most wildly appreciated work of all the things I've done," Hooks, 35, told GO Brooklyn. "It's also the least ambitious, cheapest and easiest."

"Point Break" tells the story of undercover FBI agent Utah, who attempts to infiltrate a gang of bank-robbing surfers led by Bodhi (Swayze).

According to Hooks, no effort has been spared to recreate the film's final monsoon scene, and he'll bring on the "indoor rain and wind" to help the audience suspend its disbelief.

"You come to grips with the intensity of the [film's] action in the theater," said Hooks. "You really feel like you're falling toward the earth, and you feel like you're in the ocean. We have to help [the audience] live the ride a little better — enhance it."

Another — possibly nauseating — innovation:

Hook's re-creation of Keanu's girlfriend, Tyler, as a 10-year-old girl (played by Greenpoint resident Izzy Abeyta).

Hooks said he adapted the film for the stage with the help of Jamie Keeling, who



You're the inspiration: Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze in the original "Point Break."

deserves the credit for the "you are Keanu" angle. Perhaps it isn't so hard to believe that Hooks, also of Greenpoint, and Keeling "hatched the idea."

She's been performing at

"Point Break Live!" will be performed at Galapagos Art Space (70 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg) on Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20. For tickets, visit the Web site www.smartsix.com and for more information, visit www.galapagospace.com.

the show, which is a weekly evening over karaoke." But they did, and now Brooklyn can also enjoy a show that has been so warmly received in Minneapolis and Olympia, Washington, where, according to Hooks, "the town...is mad."

The actress' role was played by "an overweight lesbian."

He said that even a man who "barely spoke English" gave a "fantastic performance" as Reeves.

"It took a long time, because he had trouble reading the English, but he had the audience eating out of his hand."

The volunteer who plays Agent Utah does not have to go it alone. Another cast member and Production Assistant, helps the novice with his blocking and holds all the important cue cards.

Hooks says that the audience doesn't appear to shy away from the limelight, so he doesn't have a problem getting a volunteer. He attributes the success to an appeal to everyone wants to be an action-movie star. Even Tony Kushner [the "Angels in America" playwright] secretly wants to be in an ass-kicking Hollywood film.

"I'm wallowing in the muck of popularity," he said, smiling. "I'm not used... 'And I hope it doesn't stain my clothing. Really, one thing Seattle could teach New York is that people there — from the drunk at the bar to the mayor — don't take themselves so godforsakenly serious all the time. Certainly, New York thinks it's serious."

Although cue cards are available for the volunteer, Hooks says the Johnny Utah role does entail being on the receiving end of a lot of abuse.

"People are yelling at him and abusing him and forcing him to come armed roles, and then they're the entire cast of 'Point Break Live!'" Realistically reproduces this aspect of this movie...He's spit on, teased, and forced to chase people around. Yet people were absolutely gung ho to play this role."

He said that Hooks is a fan of a director he met at the theatrical adaptation of "Point Break" on the road without permission from the filmmakers. But he's rather pragmatic about the danger.

"If they sued me, they'd find some walnuts, seaweed and an empty bottle of orange juice in the fridge," he said with just a touch of a smile.

"And the truth is, this is not mocking Keanu," said Hooks. "It's a really respectfully true. I believe that 90 percent of why people don't achieve their dreams is self-inflicted: I couldn't be the action-picture star, because I'm not good enough, or I don't have the right character. But even one can act like Keanu. That's shown us that if you believe you can do it, talent is secondary to drive and ambition. Everybody can be Keanu."

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The Heights Players photo by Gary Miller

Heights Players turn 50

The Heights Players commemorated their 50th anniversary with dinner and dancing at Williamsburg's Gianino's on the Water on Saturday.

Among those celebrating the community theater's landmark year were (above) actor John Bourne, the group's founder, and director Fabio Talarico, who will direct The Heights Players' production of "Witness for the Prosecution" this month. From March 3 - 19, Bourne will reprise the role of Francis Nurse, from "The Crucible," which he played recently.

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in three months, the Heights Players was incorporated as a nonprofit educational group. We started our workshop program and decided we were going to be a residential company in Brooklyn." Also at the event were (at right) residents Michael and Christine Janover, and (left) Heights Players founder John Bourne (center) with state Sen. Martin Connor and Assemblywoman Joan Millman.

"Witness for the Prosecution" will be staged at the Heights Players Theater (26 Willow Place at State Street in Brooklyn Heights) Fridays through Sunday, from Feb. 17-19. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$10 for students, seniors and children. For ticket information and reservations, call (718) 237-2752.

BCAT Program Guide — What's on Brooklyn Community Access Television

Television Production with a Brooklyn State of Mind

By Joy Rivers

What's in a name? Viewers of Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT), the borough's public access channels, are now finding out. Since January 17, 2006, all programming on the BCAT channels has sported a logo identifying it as either "Brooklyn Free Speech TV" programming or "Brooklyn Independent Television" programming. This is part of a new effort by those who manage BCAT to clarify for viewers whether the programming they are watching originates from the community (Brooklyn Free Speech TV) or from BCAT itself (Brooklyn Independent Television).

BCAT is operated by Brooklyn Information & Culture, Inc. (BRIC), which serves as the Borough's community access organization. The new logo have been launched as part of a five-year plan prepared by BRIC entitled "Pilot Access TV: Expanding BCAT's Contribution to the Brooklyn Community." This master plan was intended to respond to the input of numerous Brooklyn constituents, including the suggestions of a Community Access Strategic Planning panel chartered by Borough President Marty Markowitz when the first took office.

"As Brooklyn's public access organization, we were given a dual mandate to provide meaningful media access to the community, and to facilitate and develop television created with Brooklyn and its diverse populations in mind," said Leslie Schultz, BRIC's Executive Director. "Our master plan was designed to further both of these vitally important ends."

The new logos help viewers understand whether programming originates from the community from the "access" part of the mandate or from the "Brooklyn-centric content" part. By law, BCAT cannot control the content of a program submitted by a community member; programs can be about anything a local resident deems of interest. As a result, the eclectic "Free Speech TV" programs on the BCAT channels run gamut from talk shows to comedy to home-grown music videos to news. In the belief of Brooklyn many denominations. Programs produced or sponsored by the community now feature the Brooklyn Free Speech TV logo.

In January, to help on this front, BCAT launched a new educational initiative called Brooklyn Center for Media Education (BCME). BCME is expanding the number of low-cost courses available to the Brooklyn community from two to eight classes at a median cost of \$30. In addition to the



BCAT clarifies for viewers whether the programming they are watching originates from the community (Brooklyn Free Speech TV) or from BCAT itself (Brooklyn Independent Television) with new logos.



two basic television production workshops, new workshops include interviewing tips, sound, lighting, and advanced editing. Brooklynites can also learn to become better viewers via a new media literacy class and master computer basics with a computer literacy class.

The launch of BCME makes BCAT the borough leader in affordable media education in Brooklyn. The eight course that comprises our catalog of classes provide our students with the knowledge to develop a first-class skill set for an unbelievable price point. You could take all eight of our courses for less than you would pay for a 3-credit course at a public college — and we'll let you use an \$8 million television facility for free to create a program that will be cablecast, for free, into a potential of 429,000 households in Brooklyn.

BCAT originated from a state-of-the-art facility located in the former Strand Theater in downtown Brooklyn. Programs can be seen on each of Brooklyn's two cable franchise systems: Time Warner Cable 34, 35, 56, and 57 and Cablevision 67, 68, 69, and 70, and streamed live on the internet at www.bcat.tv/bcat. Since 1993, BCAT has provided thousands of Brooklyn residents and organizations access to free, shared time, low-cost television production training and free equipment usage.

To request a free BCAT Program Guide or a class schedule, email comms@bcat.tv or call 718-935-1122 x250.

FIND THE COMPLETE BCAT PROGRAMMING GUIDE IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE



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CV	9:00am	9:30am	10:00am	10:30am	11:00am	11:30am	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm	1:30pm	2:00pm	2:30pm	3:00pm	3:30pm	4:00pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	6:30pm	6:45pm	6:50pm	6:55pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	8:45pm	8:50pm	8:55pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	12:00am		
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SATURDAY - Eah - 11

CHECKIN' IN WITH...

Sander Hicks

He serves up bagels, excellent fair-trade coffee and controversial books at his Vox Pop coffeehouse in Ditmas Park, but does that qualify someone to be governor? Maybe not, but he did just win his first elected office — president of the Cortelyou Road Merchants Association. Now, writer, activist and 9-11 critic Sander Hicks is looking for the slightly more important, though. "Greater things can happen," Hicks will be taking his "message for peace and justice" around the state with a Lollapalooza-like road show. Our Gersh Kuntzman caught up with this bear-pole-tall lightningrod.

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Q: So what is important to you?

A: Big ideas. Albany should create its own public interest venture capital fund. Why couldn't the state give loans to socially conscious companies — like organic farmers, wind farms, alternative fuels — in exchange for a small equity stake?

Q: Um, because that's socialism.

A: I'm not a socialist capitalist. I am corporate globalism. Jobs are going overseas and it's a race to the bottom. But look at Vox Pop. We're a union shop that sells fair-trade coffee. We are the future.

Q: The future?

A: Yes, plus, we're the only place where you can get a decent espresso.

Q: Well, you have one qualification for office: You've already tangled with Andrea Peyer of The Post and come out alive.

A: She was upset because Vox Pop published "The Big Wedding: 9-11, the Whistleblowers and the Cover-up" [the book questions the "official" story of 9-11]. But the larger issue is non-violence. As governor, I will be pro-Satyagraha.

Q: Satya-who-ha? You lost me.

A: It's a Gandhian term. Some people believe that non-violence is weak, but as someone who kill a guy, I know.

Q: You hit a guy?

A: I'm from a New Mexico family. But after that went to New Mexico and to India. Gandhi people think non-violence is for crusty hippies who smell like patchouli, but Gandhi said non-violence works because it doesn't create a violent reaction. By taking the blows, you are showing that you won't give up on your oppressor. It believes in his humanity. It's all applicable to our current situation.

Q: The future?

A: I'm asking people to take a major shift, as Paul Wellstone showed us, you have to stick to your values.

Q: He also had plenty of kitchen-table issues.

A: So do I. Wal-mart destroys mom and pop stores. Health-care needs to be universal. Who will speak for the masses?

Q: But the political graveyard is filled with the corpses of candidates who claimed to "speak for the masses."

A: Go to hicksforgovernor.com. It's all there.

Parks: We only killed trees to save the lives of humans



moles for damaging the three ginkgoes and two London planes, but will be charged \$1,000 for the removal of the trees and must pay hundreds more to plant new trees.

George York, who owns York Restoration, held his ground when told of the Parks Department's damage control.

"I'm not going to go along with those trees," York said. "I hired an arborist, who said so, but the Parks people wouldn't listen.

This is all a big bamboozle."

But Kavanagh fired back, slamming York's arborist, Don Venezia, for saying that the trees were "damaged" and should be spared "merely with intense fertilization."

"We don't know how a certified arborist could have missed root damage that extensive," Kavanagh said.

"This damage went through the entire root zone. Anchoring roots, nutritional roots, all severed," (Venezia did not return a call.)

York, who is appealing the summons, said he would rip up the just-paved sidewalk and confirm that the trees were fine by hiring a "forensic arborist."

"There must be such a thing, right?" he said.

Regardless, the building's management vowed to fight on.

"We're sticking with what we said: The trees were alive and healthy," said David Grillo, manager of the building. "This is not the end of this story."

A Parks Department photo shows one of five trees that officials say were a danger to humans because of massive root damage.

BROOKLYN BRIEFS



Stars come out for Marty's party

The Brooklyn Papers

The stars of Brooklyn — and beyond — came out for Borough President Markowitz's coronation ceremony last week at Brooklyn Tech HS in Fort Greene.

Thousands of well-wishers — and seasoned buffet elbow-throwers — cheered Markowitz as he took the oath of office from Mayor Bloomberg (although Markowitz promised to uppercase "New York" but Bloomberg let him have his day).

Junior Sen. Hillary Clinton was on hand, as was developer Bruce Ratner, whose Atlantic Yards project has enjoyed Markowitz's support from its earliest days.

"He was invited and very happy to attend," Ratner had a very nice time.

Hundreds of other Brooklynites shared that sentiment, thanks to an open bar (which, in deference to Markowitz's well-known battle of the bulge, dispensed a low-carb white wine in addition to other intoxicants) and ample buffet offerings.

"Man, this place looks like the White House dinner from *Anchorman*," insisted one guest, watching members of the multi-racial, multi-generational push their way to the food before even taking off their coats.

In his speech, Markowitz praised virtually everyone who made even a passing contribution to Brooklyn life, from that guy who drank in 1,000 bars last year to Hollywood star — and Brooklyn resident — Heath Ledger.

He vowed to fight for better health-care for Brooklynites, job and better schools, but mostly he promised to use his second and final term to be what he has always been: a cheerleader for the borough.

"Brooklyn is where it's at, baby!" he said. — Kuntzman

Marty's sign absconded with

The Brooklyn Papers

Fughedaboudit "Fughedaboudit."

One of Borough President Markowitz's beloved "Leaving Brooklyn: Fughedaboudit" road signs — installed along the Belt Parkway to raze drivers as they head out of Brooklyn into the wasteland beyond — has been stolen.

Markowitz said the theft occurred in October, but he didn't know it until he spotted the "copy-cat" theft of one of the two remaining "Fughedaboudit" signs — one haunting drivers who exit for the Verrazano Bridge and another plying Queens-bound motorists on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

"He's come to town to tell us to get out of Brooklyn. Nothing meshega about it," and "Brooklyn: We ain't suckers". But hundreds of others should never have even made it to print, as The Brooklyn Papers points out in this handy chart of lousy Kings County slogans.

— Gersh Kuntzman



The Brooklyn Papers file/Gersh Kuntzman

Words to live by

The Brooklyn Papers

SLOGAN	WHY IT'S BAD
"Brooklyn: Beating the odds"	Of course we beat the odds. We make them, don't we?
"Brooklyn: In your face"	We suppose it beats, "Newark: In your nose."
"Brooklyn: Come get it!"	Just make sure you pay for it on your way out.
"Brooklyn: Has everything you'd like"	...except ample street parking
"Brooklyn: Is a winner hands down"	Please keep those hands where we can see them.
"Brooklyn: Is much loved"	Hourly rates available
"Brooklyn: Let's do it!"	Hourly rates available
"Brooklyn: Tell a friend"	What are we, shampoo?
"Brooklyn: You'll be back!"	Isn't that what jilted spouses scream out the window?
"Brooklyn: From soup to nuts"	We'll have the matzoh ball, but we'll skip that weirdo on the subway.
"Brooklyn: A great place to live, an even harder place to forget!"	Probably because of the dog poop on your sneaker
"Brooklyn: Is on fire!"	No, that was the 1970s.
"Brooklyn: More bang for the buck!"	No, only when the hookers are running a special.
"Come see how we've developed!"	Hate to break it to you: they're implants.
"I feel all Brooklynized!"	Too bad your HMO won't cover it.
"Let your Brooklyn out!"	We tried that on the subway and got arrested.
"Love thy neighbor — in Brooklyn!"	We tried that but got divorced.
"Nothing rhymes with Brooklyn like love!"	Actually, better rhymes for Brooklyn are "decayed skin," "bathtub gin" and "original sin."
"The welcome mat's out... So wipe your feet, you're feet."	And while you're at it, spill coffee on our couch, urinate on the carpet and throw eggs at our front window.
"When you're here, you're family!"	No, that's the Olive Garden.

Coney horses all secure

The Brooklyn Papers

Coney Island's last wooden ponies woke up Saturday far from the rusting roundabout that had always been home.

For the first time since the famous Bishop and Breitstein Carousell moved to Surf Avenue in 1932, its hand-carved horses were taken away from their 45-year-old wooden base. But officials say that'll be in a horse before they even miss the smell of stale Crackerjacks and the sound of screaming children.

The McCullagh family sold the ride last summer, intending for it to be bought, piece-by-piece, by collectors. Instead, the city paid \$1.8 million for it, hoping to re-install it on the Boardwalk.

The ponies were removed from the Carousell last week and taken to a "secure location" until their new home is ready.

Of the 25 merry-go-rounds that once made Coney Island America's premiere amusement spot, the B&B is the only one to come out of the 20th century alive.

Its lead horse, outfitted in full body armor embossed with a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, was carved by famed Brooklyn artist Marcus Charles Illions.

— Ariella Cohen

DDDB back online at libraries

The Brooklyn Papers

The company that filters Web sites for Manhattan public libraries has decided that Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn isn't smut after all.

Tech-security company WebSense stopped classifying the DDDB Web address as "adult content" this week, letting library users to view the Prospect Heights activist group's blog.

The reclassification came after computer users at the Mid-Manhattan branch of the New York Public Library complained that they could not access the angry, but not lewd, site.

— Cohen

The fighting Irish at Beep's party



The sisters Hagan at Borough President's Markowitz's inauguration last week.

The Brooklyn Papers

Call it Sister Act, Brooklyn-style.

Prospect Heights' own Hagan sisters gave another show-stopping performance this week, when they rained on Borough President Markowitz's inauguration party with a few belly laughs.

Prospect Heights' own Hagan sisters made the Brooklyn President's annual ball each year since 2004, when the Beep came out as chief cheerleader for the borough's largest and most-controversial development, Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards and a skyscraper project.

This time, the sisters interrupted a video montage starring Net star Vince Carter and the Beep in a tennis jersey by chanting "shut up" in an eminent domain?" and "What about Prospect Heights?"

Security guards tried to escort the duo out after a woman seated nearby whirled around to face them and began shouting "shut up."

Eventually, the guards gave up and left the strong-willed sisters to watch their fellow Brooklynites perform.

"We're here," said Hagan. "We weren't going to leave because the step-dancers." — Ariella Cohen



The Brooklyn Papers file/Steve Kornacki

"We had classified the site as 'adult content' because it was sharing an IP address with a Web site that offers adult content," a spokesperson for the library system.

According to the public library, the block-out was nothing more than a glitch.

"And if [a site] is blocked, you can always self-certify to visit the site...I mean, if you are an adult," said a cautious library spokeswoman.

Gayle Smiley.

Federal rules require public libraries to use Internet filters on institutional computers.

— Cohen

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